

MINUTES
SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2022

This meeting is being held face to face at the Suttons Bay-Bingham Fire and Rescue Authority meeting room at 201 N. St. Mary's Avenue in Suttons Bay, Michigan. Due to continuing concerns about Covid transmission there will also be a Zoom link for remote attendance. Any unvaccinated member of the Public in attendance is required to wear a mask. Others should use their own judgment as to mask wearing

CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING

Rich Bahle called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. at the Suttons Bay-Bingham Fire and Rescue Authority Meeting Room, 201 N. St. Mary's Avenue, Suttons Bay, MI.

ROLL CALL - Quorum Present

Present: Rich Bahle, Sandy VanHuystee, Dorothy Petroskey, Tom Nixon

Absent and excused: Debbie Slocombe

Zoom: Marge Johnson, Deb Palms, Ann Rogers, Eric Carlson, Gary Hoensheid

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Rich Bahle/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/supported, to approve the agenda as submitted, passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Hoensheid, understands the Parks & Rec Comm is being disbanded. From the board I am saddened to say that I was not notified of this. I just happened to find out about it. My wife and I seek no fame and glory. We have donated \$250,000 to Herman Park. Others have donated substantial money to Herman Park. For not to be notified of a change this dramatically, is an insult. We have saved the township residents lots of money, and I find it as an insult. I thought it may be done because certain people are out of town. I will comment at the end of your Board meeting.

Rich Bahle said to clarify things, when it was suggested that the Parks & Rec Committee be included on this agenda, spoke to Tom, because Debbie could not be present, that we should not discuss that. It warrants having all of the members of the Board present for that, not because she has been a key individual with regards to the Parks & Rec Committee. It would be wrong. I suggest that we table that discussion until all of the members of the Board are present. Thank you, Gary.

Rich Bahle reported on a webinar he saw regarding COVID impact.

- Described what the funds can be used for.
- Reporting requirements abbreviated.
- Public should be informed there is a requirement from the State regarding what are considered legitimate township expenditures
- Emphasized cannot make donations.
- Check with auditor and attorney if any questions.
- No question about making improvements at the township hall or park improvements.

REPORTS:

- **Treasurer** - As presented
- **Planning & Zoning** - As presented.
- **Fire Authority** - Dorothy Petroskey appointed as President.
- **Parks & Rec** - Bill Drozdalski - Agreement between Village and Township needs to be updated. Prepared preliminary budget. Discussion about the well and proposals for campsites at Graham Greene Park, and working with individuals to maintain the parks. Permission given to mow the Tart Trail for at least another year.
- **Facilities**- Tom Nixon said with the wall down in the township offices, looking at 60% more conference and meeting room space. Need to make a decision about the type of door to be installed which will meet the requirements of the Clerk. Most of the electrical costs and heating changes have been eliminated.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Minutes: December 8, 15 & 30, 2021

Correction to December 8 Minutes - 3rd pg. - potential contamination - Herman Park - last name Bohan.

Tom Nixon/moved, Dorothy Petroskey/suported, to approve the December 8, 2021 Minutes as corrected, the December 15 and December 30 Minutes as presented, PASSED.

2. Payment of Bills.

Sandy VanHuystee/moved, Dorothy Petroskey/supported, to pay the bills in the amount of \$31,316.84 as presented, PASSED.

3. Herman Park Rules

Rich Bahle/moved, Tom Nixon/supported, to adopt the Herman Park Rules Reservation Form as revised 1-12-2022, that the applicant has to pay for additional trash pickup, PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review Compensation Rates for Election Workers, Board of Review Members, and Steve Patmore for assisting with zoom meetings.

Rich Bahle/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/supported, to adopt a new Compensation Schedule as presented by Sandy VanHustee for Election Workers and Board of Review, PASSED.

Rich Bahle/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/supported, to compensate Steve Patmore \$50.00 per meeting for assisting the Township Board with zoom meetings, PASSED.

3. Discussion and decision on Parks/Recreation Committee

Rich Bahle said as I discussed in response to Gary Hoensheids public comments, I think it is only fair that we wait for Debbie Slocombe.

Rich Bahle/moved, to table any discussion on Parks and Recreation, rule changes or anything that would involve Parks & Rec until we have a full Board present.

Dorothy Petroskey/supported, that we will have discussion because there are a lot of things that need to be talked about, don't want to table the discussion.

Tom Nixon said he would support having a discussion.

Rich Bahle said he would withdraw his motion. Because of Debbie's involvement with this for many years, that it would be beyond unfortunate to discuss it without her present.

Tom Nixon said we did offer guidance thru the adoption of some bylaws several months ago providing clarify of understanding of what the role of that committee was in a manner in which they were to conduct affairs on our behalf. That was met with resistance. At the last Board meeting we were faced with individual committee members indicating they were going to take a leave of absence from the Committee until the matters were resolved that they felt passionate about. With those two events particularly, I think it warrants that we disband the structure because it isn't working and adopt a different structure. Committees are the option of the parent body to seek assistance beyond the body itself or to give information and advice to more parties. It allows a board to function thru their committee to resolve matters that they wouldn't themselves choose to resolve.

Tom Nixon submitted documents with regard to the creation of a Parks & Recreation Board which he said would bring the Board closer to Park and Rec decision making. Creation of a Parks & Recreation Board which would provide more immediate advice and direction to our Park Supervisor which we would consider renaming Superintendent.

Rich is the Township Supervisor and Bill Drozdalski is the Parks & Rec Supervisor. Under the new rules Bill would be Park Superintendent. The activities of the Board would be directly giving advice and direction to Bill, to the Park Superintendent in a more immediate fashion because we would be structuring it so the meetings would be held more frequently at least twice a month and more if that body would choose to meet, or less if that body didn't feel the need to, but basically setting up a situation where people could work closer together. The group could be smaller, but number 5 is not in concrete. It does bring the Park Superintendent and assistant together with two Board members and one another perspective, maybe we need more than one of those. They would be a member of the community who is interested in youth. They would provide advice to Bill and cannot make decisions that supersede what the Board would make and yet would be empowered by the bylaws to recommend to us as a Board when they meet or would prefer to have a broader public segment about issues. Ad hoc committees are charged with a specific task and when that task is completed, it would dissolve and another committee may be appointed. There may 2 or 3 ad hoc committees formed which could do public surveys and public forums. An ad hoc committee is involved with the ice rink. We expect next year's budget to reflect some major changes for the ice rink. I don't often disagree with our supervisor, but with this matter I would support dissolving the current Parks & Recreation Committee and adopting bylaws for the establishment of a Parks & Rec Board.

Dorothy Petroskey said last month I wasn't aware there were issues with the makeup of Parks & Rec. Committee members were taking a leave of absence and there was no longer a quorum for meetings. I had no idea that Debbie was going to be gone until this meeting. We no longer have a Parks & Rec Committee that is going to be able to function. We are pretty much forced to do something different.

Rich Bahle said a few people in the community who like to work on these activities I think, are ignoring the personality issues that put us in this position. There was a lack of oversight. Changing the name of whatever that group is really doesn't address the dynamics that made it all happen, and so if the personalities are the same, we get the same result. Doing away with the Rec Committee without recognizing what brought us to this point, to just call it a board as opposed to a committee, we absolutely want to make it clear what this Board expects. The Board and Rec Committee are advisory. What we were talking about at last month's meeting was universal displeasure with what was going on, and the idea that we might somehow bring those individuals to the Rec Committee without calling it something different is not realistic.

Tom Nixon said I am talking about 2 members of the Board, 2 members from the park staff and one person at large. The committee would be more actively involved in an ad hoc committee structure than permanent.

Rich Bahle said we have a limited pool of individuals in the community who would come

forward, look at two members of the community to serve.

Tom Nixon said the committee has to be more engaged in thinking rather than a lot of physical activity. It should be strictly an advisory group. They should be helping us broaden our perspective for what is needed in our community and help us with decisions that will lead to a decision of the Board. I don't see a need for a permanent entity to handle our parks.

Sandy VanHuystee said there has been too much controversy, too much anguish. I think it is time to move on, try something different.

Dorothy Petroskey said the bylaws were presented to the Parks & Rec Committee to help it do the job it was asked to do.

Rich Bahle/moved, Dorothy Petroskey/supported, to table this issue until the February meeting. Voice vote in favor of the motion: Yes: Bahle, Nixon, Petroskey. No: VanHuystee. Passed.

Leland School Tax Collection Resolution

Dorothy Petroskey/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/supported to adopt a Resolution accepting the agreement with Leland School for summer tax collection.

Roll call vote: Yes: Bahle, Nixon, Petroskey, VanHuystee. No: None.

Absent: Slocombe. Passed.

ZBA Alternate

Rich Bahle said a Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting is scheduled for January 26th. Potentially two members have conflicts. Bill Perkins has agreed to serve as an alternate for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Rich Bahle/moved, Tom Nixon/supported, to appoint Bill Perkins to the Suttons Bay Township Zoning Board of Appeals as the second alternate for three years, (January 31, 2022 thru January 31, 2025), passed.

Board of Review Training, authorized class fees of \$500

Rich Bahle/moved, Tom Nixon/supported, to authorize Rich Bahle to spend up to \$500.00 to train four (4) members of the Board of Review as mandated by State law, passed.

Review of Village Agreement for water use at skating rink

Rich Bahle/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/supported, to authorize Rich Bahle, Supervisor, to sign the new Village Agreement for water use at the skating rink for three (3) years thru January 12, 2025, passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Bill Perkins - Jesse Fox purchased the snowmobile for the ice rink. Ice rink property perfect place for basketball courts.

Gary Hoensheid - want to go on record, don't know if the Board is going to vote on the Rec Committee before Debbie gets back. When Tom Nixon says we, Tom Nixon is the one who created the bylaws for the committee. No comment was solicited by Tom to the Rec Committee. A lot of things could have been avoided. Thanks Tom Nixon.

Bill Drozdalski - Graham Greene Park. Stated that the park was Graham Park, records show.

Board member comments -

Tom Nixon - nice to have people like Andy Rink in the community. He donated \$500.00 for the permits for the township office renovation.

ADJOURNMENT

Rich Bahle adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Minutes by Marge Johnson, Recording Secretary
Sandy VanHuystee, Clerk

Minutes Approved as-presented on February 9, 2022